

Palmetto

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Southern Secession and the Scottish Independence Referendum of 2014



On September 18, 2014, a century and a half of government education and nationalist propaganda suffered a tremendous blow as America and the rest of world observed the Scottish people *peacefully* debate the merits of their membership in the United Kingdom (est. 1707) before going to the polls to *freely* decide whether or not they would become an independent country.

Although the Scottish people ultimately chose not to secede (by fairly thin margin of just 10.6%), they did so of their own free will and accord, thus making the political arrangement one of *choice* rather than *coercion*.

The following day, a poll conducted by Reuters/Ipsos was released showing that roughly 1 in 4 Americans (23.9%) “strongly supported or tended to support the idea of their state breaking away” from Washington. Given our current population of 316.1 million, this equates to over 75.5 million Americans. The Reuters article credits the Scottish Independence movement for “stirring hopes” of disgruntled Americans to the possibility of severing ties with the central government. The poll also revealed that this sentiment “cut across party lines and regions,” although “Republicans and residents of rural Western states” were “generally warmer to the idea than Democrats and Northeasterners.” Still,

[Southern Secession, cont. on page 7](#)

Monsters of Virtuous Pretension

William Gilmore Simms Account of the INVASION of Columbia, SC

Dr. David Aiken

William Gilmore Simms’s document *The Capture, Sack and Destruction of the City of Columbia* can be summarized in a word: INVASION. Simms states the subject matter in his title, but the meaning of this important narrative is expressed in four words – Simms’s four words: the invasion of South Carolina and particularly the destruction of Columbia was committed by “monsters of virtuous pretension.” The invasion of the South, culminating in the conflagration of Columbia, was committed by criminals who loudly proclaimed simultaneously both their innocence and their alleged pure and lofty intentions.

We should never forget that Sherman began immediately denying that he had burned Columbia. He willfully and arrogantly blamed the destruction on Wade Hampton. Simms records what he observed as well as what he received in sworn testimonies:

Newly made graves were opened, the coffins taken out, broken open, in search of buried treasure, and the corpses left exposed. Every spot in grave yard or garden,

[Monsters of Virtuous Pretension cont. on page 6](#)



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FROM THE EDITOR

Paul C. Graham
Editor-In-Chief

Although this issue is lacking in diversity of material, I think it is strong in content.

As many of you know, there is an ongoing attempt, most recently in Atlanta, GA, to white-wash the details of Sherman's vicious invasion of the South. We are including a very fine (and at times graphic) account of Sherman's invasion of Columbia, SC, by Dr David Aiken of Charleston. This piece was extracted by permission from a much longer work recently presented



at a Stephen Dill Lee Institute symposium. This story must be remembered, told, and re-told. Since this is the last issue to go out before the sesquicentennial of Sherman's entrance into our fair state, we felt it was appropriate to set the record straight.

The Confederate "Flag Flap" seems to be a permanent part of the political landscape, so knowing the facts are important. Our Associate Editor, Kevin Dietrich, has provided us with a fantastic resource in this edition by detailing the history of the flag at the Statehouse from 1961 to 2014. Again, our aim is to set the record straight.

What about secession? Is it treason? Does it cause war? It seems the times are changing and secession is no longer the political heresy that it once was. This was abundantly clear in the recent Scottish independence referendum and its aftermath. How can these recent events help us better understand the war? We consider these and other questions in this issue as well.

With this information, it is our hope that we will all be better able to carry out our duty to advance the cause and to live the charge!

In closing and on the behalf of the entire Palmetto Partisan staff, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Warmest Confederate regards,
Paul C. Graham



Paul C. Graham - Editor-In-Chief ■ Melinda Moseley - Art Director/Designer
Kevin Dietrich - Associate Editor

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STANDING GUARD

Leland Summers
SC Division Commander



Since my last column, I have traveled across the state visiting our Camps and Brigades. My purpose is to make sure that communications are open between the Camps and Division and that Division is providing the services and information you need. If any Camp has issues with which the Division may assist, we are anxious to help. If I have not visited your Camp, please contact me so we can schedule a visit.

One issue always comes up: What can we do to improve attendance and participation? Although I have no magical answer, some things have proven effective:

- Each Camp should have an Executive Council (EC) consisting of your elected officers. This EC should meet at least quarterly to plan your Camp's programs and activities. These meetings should be separate from your regular Camp meetings.
- Camps that have a speaker at each meeting tend to have better attendance. You don't have to spend a bucket of money to hire a speaker. There are experts on Confederate history in your Camp and other Camps nearby. There is a Speaker's Bureau linked on the Division website maintained by Lt. Commander Thrasher. If you need help finding a speaker, perhaps he can help.
- Camps that have an established meeting date, time, and location have better attendance and participation.
- Communications is essential. I maintain my membership Tuesday night. My Past Commander gave each Camp officer a list of 5-6 names with phone numbers. He called each of us one week prior to each meeting with reminder to activate our call list. On Sunday afternoon we called the names on our list. The whole process takes about ten minutes. Our attendance and participation improved.
- Most communities have a "hometown" newspaper. Typically they offer FREE space to announce meetings and events for local organizations and civic clubs. Advertise your meeting there with relevant details and contact information. By announcing your meeting, you make your presence known in your community and might just recruit some new members.
- Each and every member of your Camp should have a job to do in your Camp. This gives them ownership in the Camp.

I encourage you to try some of these ideas and see what happens. They work!

In closing, Sherri and I hope you and your families had a Happy Thanksgiving and will have a very Merry Christmas. Take time to reflect on the dismal and tumultuous holidays that our ancestors experienced from 1861 to 1864.

See you on the Field of Honor.
Your obedient servant I remain,
Leland

MUSTER

Ken Thrasher
SC Division Lt. Commander

Greetings Compatriots,

As I sit here on this cool, fall afternoon, I wonder what our ancestors were thinking 150 years ago. I guess they were wondering if they would ever see their loved ones again; if they would ever see their home again. Many of our heroes are lying in the ground far from their homes. Now, I ask, "What are you thinking?" Do you go to your Camp meeting just to meet, eat, and retreat? If so, YOU are not doing enough to honor our ancestors.



Since our Reunion last spring, our membership has gained in numbers. However, we have also lost members to non-renewals and to that grim reaper, death, that one day will call us home.

We need to be recruiting everyday and every chance we get. Strange as it may seem, many people do not know they have a Camp in their community. We must get the word out! How do we do that, you ask? There are many possibilities. If a town in your area has a festival, contact them and obtain space for a recruiting booth. If you know of a cemetery in your area that has been neglected and needs cleaning, organize a work day for your camp to clean it and adopt it. Send an article with pictures to your local newspaper. You would be surprised with the results. My Brigade will be cleaning an overgrown cemetery in December that is approximately 2 acres in size. With a good turnout like we have had in the past, this will be done in one day. In the past we have had anywhere from 40 to 70 compatriots taking part in our annual wilderness cemetery cleanup.

I encourage each camp to become active, to get out and recruit, bring past members back into the Camp, and continue to grow and carry out "Our Charge".

In closing, I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Joyous Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year. Let us move forward into 2015 with plans to make our Camps the best in the Confederation.

Keeping the Flag unfurled

Ken Thrasher, Lt. Commander, SC Division

THE FIELD PULPIT

Mike Short, Chaplain
SC Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

I took a road trip a few weeks ago with my cousin. It was the second time that he and I had traveled together. The first trip occurred almost twenty years ago. Our final destination for both trips was the same: Gettysburg. The only difference between this trip and the earlier trip is that twenty years ago we had our sons in tow. It was a very good father and son trip!



Since on this trip it was just him and I, we planned a few extra stops along the way. We had the opportunity to visit Lee's Chapel in Lexington, Virginia, to drive through New Market, a morning at Harper's Ferry, an afternoon at Sharpsburg, and finally two days in Gettysburg. This was probably my seventh or eighth trip to each of these places, but on every trip I am always amazed at the new things that I learn. Because there is so much history at each of these sites, it is simply too much to take in on a single visit.

On every visit I stand in reverent awe of the sacrifices that were made, the lives that were changed, the wounds that were received, and the deaths of so many fighting for their cause, and the steadfast determination to succeed.

I am also reminded that this was not the first war or last war. I am sure there will be many more to come. Wars, where lives are sacrificed for a cause, will always be a part of our history. The outcomes are never guaranteed and often are not what was hoped for.

But there was one war, with one sacrifice, which guaranteed victory for ALL! In 1 Corinthians 15:57 we find these words: *But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It is *your* victory, but you *must* claim it. Stand in awe of the sacrifice that was made for you and claim the victory for yourself!

Your Brother in Christ,

Mike Short, South Carolina Division Chaplain

State of South Carolina
Sons of Confederate Veterans

License Plate



Available statewide at all DMV licensing offices.
To purchase the SCV license plate you must
show a current and valid SCV membership card.
GET YOURS TODAY!

2015 Leadership Conference

Date: Saturday Feb, 7

Time: registration 09:00-9:30

Conference begins at 09:30

Location: Saluda Shoals Conference Center
5805 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC

No registration fee but pre registration requested.
link for registration at member section at <http://www.scs cv.com/>
Lite lunch will be available. Cost for lunch is donation to
SC Heritage for Youth Fund.

There will be two general sessions plus two breakout sessions.
Breakout sessions will cover various subjects.
Each attendee can chose two breakout sessions.

South Carolina

AND THE CONFEDERATE FLAG: 1961-2014

By Kevin Dietrich



It's difficult to determine when exactly the Confederate flag was first raised on the South Carolina Statehouse grounds. One might expect that that event initially took place during the War Between the States, but given the independent nature of the Southern states during the conflict, it's possible the battle flag didn't actually fly above the Statehouse dome on a regular basis until a full century after the conflict's beginning in 1861.

What is certain is that as the centennial of the 1861-65 war approached President Dwight D. Eisenhower urged states both North and South to commemorate the conflict, the bloodiest in U.S. history.

By a joint resolution approved in September 1957, Congress established the Civil War Centennial Commission to coordinate

nationwide observances of the 100th anniversary of the war. The resolution authorized and requested the president to issue proclamations inviting Americans to participate in those observances. Congress called upon states to recognize the centennial, and in 1960 Eisenhower urged that the commemorations continue for four years.

According to Civil War Proclamation 3882, signed by Eisenhower in December 1960, the war was America's most tragic experience but it carried an enduring lesson and a profound inspiration. "It was a demonstration of heroism and sacrifice by men and women of both sides, who valued principles above life itself and whose devotion to duty is a proud part of our national inheritance."

Both North and South sent men who become soldiers as good as any who ever fought under any flag, he wrote.

As part of his proclamation, Eisenhower requested all units and agencies of government, federal, state and local, and their officials, to encourage, foster and participate in centennial observances.

The centennial offered not only a chance for the U.S. to celebrate the sacrifice and valor of the men who wore the blue and gray a century earlier, it also gave the nation a chance to promote national unity and civic pride, no small matter during the Cold War.

In South Carolina, a state Centennial Commission was created and Gov. Fritz Hollings appointed five members to serve: Three members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, University of South Carolina History professor Daniel Hollis and S.C. Rep. John Amasa May (D-Aiken).

While it is generally accepted that the flag was first raised above the dome in 1962, it appears to have actually been raised on April 12, 1961, the 100th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter.

"The flag is being flown this week at the request of Aiken Rep. John A. May," reported *The State* on April 12, 1961.

May didn't introduce his resolution until the next legislative session. By the time the resolution passed on March 16, 1962, the flag had been flying for nearly a year, which explains why the banner is often erroneously reported to have gone up in 1962, Hollis stated in an interview in 2000.

WHY THE FLAG WAS RAISED

There has been considerable assertion in recent years that the flag was raised in defiance of the burgeoning Civil Rights movement. A 1999 article by nationally syndicated columnist George Will refuted that canard.

Will, writing at the height of the flag furor, stated that former South Carolina lawmaker George Campsen Jr., who served in the state House of Representatives from 1958 through 1964 and died in 2010, polled the surviving members of the legislature in the late '90s and stated that the consensus was that the flag was put atop the dome for the purpose of celebrating the centennial, as Eisenhower had requested.

In addition, Will wrote in his Dec. 16, 1999, column, the same lawmakers added that the flag was supposed to fly only during the centennial, and “that it was a mere oversight that the legislation putting it up did not contain a date to take it down.”

Despite the omission, there was relatively little commotion regarding the Confederate flag and its position on the dome beneath the U.S. and South Carolina flags throughout the rest of the 1960s and into the ‘70s and ‘80s.

By the 1990s, though, the issue began to heat up. Brad Warthen of *The State* newspaper in Columbia, by his own admission, began a campaign to pull the flag from the dome after he joined the paper’s editorial board in 1994.

Over the ensuing years, he and counterpart Warren Bolton wrote more than 200 editorials and columns calling for the flag’s removal. As the paper continued its steady anti-flag drumbeat, many of South Carolina’s business leaders and those connected with the state’s major universities jumped on the bandwagon, eager to protect their own interests and/or garner favor with the powers that be.

Also in 1994, the NAACP attempted to assert itself and said it would implement national economic sanctions against South Carolina unless the flag was removed from the Statehouse dome. Columbia Mayor Bob Coble responded by filing suit to bring the flag down, but in 1995 the Legislature gave itself sole authority to keep or remove the flag, prompting the state Supreme Court to dismiss Coble’s lawsuit.

David Beasley, running for governor in 1994, said he supported the continued flying of the flag over the dome. However, two years later, while addressing a statewide television audience, Beasley flip-flopped, stating that the time had come for a compromise that would move the flag to a Confederate memorial on the Capitol grounds.

Beasley, citing a “religious experience,” said that after a series of racial incidents in the state, including arsons at black churches (actions that were later found to be largely unrelated to racial motivations), he concluded that extremists had misappropriated the flag.

However, some prominent Republicans said Beasley was trying to make peace with forces that would never be satisfied.

Then-Attorney General Charlie Condon suggested the governor’s proposed action was tantamount to sacrificing the state’s history.

Eventually, “the children of South Carolina will be taught, in the name of political correctness, to be ashamed of their state’s history,” Condon told the publication.

The move proved fatal to Beasley’s political career. Some analysts considered it the crucial reason for his loss to Democrat Jim Hodges in the 1998 gubernatorial campaign, as many voters either chose to withhold support from Beasley or cast their ballots for Hodges as a means to show displeasure with the incumbent’s stand on the flag.

NAACP CALLS FOR A BOYCOTT

On July 12, 1999, the NAACP called for a “boycott,” asking organizations, churches, businesses and cultural groups to consider locations outside the state of South Carolina for meetings, conferences, etc. The boycott was to begin Jan. 1, 2000, and continue “until such time as the Confederate Battle Flag is no longer displayed in positions of sovereignty in the state of South Carolina.”

The matter finally came to a head in 2000. In January, dueling rallies at the Statehouse drew thousands of pro- and anti-flag supporters. The first, made up of those who favored keeping the flag on top of the dome, drew at least 8,000, although the media undercounted the figure.

The crowd at the second rally, held on Martin Luther King Day, was reported by the media as being 46,000 or even 50,000, but was likely closer to 25,000. Both figures were nothing more than media estimates, a notoriously inaccurate method of determining crowd size, with figures subject to the prejudices of those doing the reporting.

In spring 2000, the S.C. Legislature reached a compromise by which the flag would be lowered from its position atop the State House and a similar flag raised as part of the South Carolina Confederate Soldier Monument on the Statehouse grounds.

As part of the measure, no Confederate or black history monuments on public property throughout the state could be removed or altered, and no public area named for any historical figure could be changed.

In 2010, to mark the 10-year anniversary of the compromise, then Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, stated that “The mainstream of South Carolina on all sides has embraced it.”

At the same time, the then-chairman of the S.C. Black Caucus, Rep. David Weeks, D-Sumter, said that while there have been bills introduced each year to remove the flag from the Statehouse grounds, they seldom gained traction.

«They want the flag removed,» Weeks told *The State* in July 2010. “But the flag is a much lesser concern than trying to get people back to work.”

Finally, Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, in a desperate bid to bolster his flagging 2014 gubernatorial campaign, sought to make the flag an issue.

In early October, down by a sizable margin to eventually winner Nikki Haley, Sheheen said South Carolina should furl the flag from the Confederate Soldiers’ Monument for economic development reasons because it will make the state look better in the global marketplace.

«I don’t want South Carolina celebrated as the state that left America, but as the state that loves America,» Sheheen said.

Haley, like her predecessor Mark Sanford, had stated that she considered the matter settled and that revisiting the issue was not part of her agenda.

In the end, Sheheen’s effort to reinvigorate his campaign by demonizing the Confederate flag worked as well as Beasley’s did two decades earlier as he was trounced by Haley.

Rest assured, though, this will not be the last time a politician attempts to vilify the Confederate flag for their own purposes.

Today, nearly a decade and a half after the flag was relocated, the impact of the campaign against it appears negligible. Businesses continue to move in or out of South Carolina based on what’s in their best interests – often ultimately decided by tax incentives handed out by state, county and local officials. The NAACP boycott remains in place, though it appears all but forgotten except when media types in need of story call the organization for comment.

Most South Carolinians – including many within the Sons of Confederate Veterans – have accepted the compromise and moved on. But there remains a small contingent of Palmetto State residents who continue to agitate for moving the flag. They see the flag protest as a way to fill their organizations’ coffers and keep themselves in the news and relevant. All of which means the flag and its place at the Confederate Soldiers Monument will likely remain a hot topic for some time to come.

which seemed to have been recently disturbed, was sounded with sword, or bayonet, or ramrod, in their desperate search after spoil. These *monsters of virtuous pretension*, with their banner of streaks and spangles overhead, and sworn to the Constitution, which they neither understand nor read...

Subsequently, the whole of American history and literature has been dedicated to defending monsters, to sanitizing, to whitewashing, to glorifying criminals. American higher educated has been slavishly committed to the outrageous premise that the invasion of the South was a good thing, and the people who perpetrated that invasion were virtuous people. Anybody who disagrees with this imperial bias, or questions the fundamental premise, is called names – racist, ignorant, un-American, or even a domestic terrorists!

Any historical document that disagrees is ignored, or destroyed. That's why Simms's account of invading "monsters of virtuous pretension" was neglected for 140 years, and almost destroyed, resulting not in a fair and historical report, but in unexamined and unconfirmed assertions of northern righteousness and Southern degeneracy, as if Americans are not supposed to know any history, as if knowing the past makes Americans incapable of seeing grand universal principles.

More importantly, though, eyewitness sources contradict American romantic myths about Lincoln and Mr. Lincoln's War. Consider the following description of events:

The march of the enemy into our State was characterized by such scenes of brutality, license, plunder and general conflagration, as very soon showed that the threat of the Northern press, and of their soldiery, were not to be regarded as mere brutum fulmen. Day by day, brought to the people of Columbia tidings of newer atrocities committed, and a wider and more extended progress. Daily did long trains of fugitives line the roads, with wives and children, and horses and stock and cattle, seeking refuge from the wolfish fury which pursued. Long lines of wagons covered the highways. Half naked people cowered from the winter under bush tents in the thickets, under the eaves of houses, under the railroad sheds, and in old cars left there along the route. All these repeated the same story of brutal outrage and great suffering, violence, poverty and nakedness. Habitation after habitation, village after village – one sending up its signal flames to the other, presaging for it the same fate – lighted the winter and midnight sky with crimson horrors. . . . Where the families still ventured to remain, they were, in most instances, so tortured by insult, violence, robbery and all manner of brutality, that flight became necessary, and the burning of the dwelling soon followed the flight of the owner. No language can describe the sufferings of these fugitives, or the demonic horrors by which they were pursued; nor can any catalogue furnish an adequate detail of the wide-spread destruction of homes and property... The negroes were robbed equally with the whites of food and clothing. The roads were covered with butchered cattle, hogs, mules and the costliest furniture. Nothing was permitted to escape... Horses were ridden into the houses. Sick people were forced from their beds, to permit the search after hidden treasures. In pursuit of these, the most diabolic ingenuity was exercised, and the cunning of the Yankee, in robbing, proved far superior to that of the negro for concealment. The beautiful homesteads of the parish country, with their wonderful tropical gardens, were ruined; ancient dwellings of black cypress, one hundred years old, which had been reared by the fathers of the republic – men whose names were famous in Revolutionary history – were given

to the torch as recklessly as were the rudest hovels; the ancient furniture was hewn to pieces; the costly collections of China were crushed wantonly under foot; choice pictures of works of art, from Europe; select and numerous libraries, objects of peace wholly, were all destroyed. The summer retreats, simple cottages of slight and unpretending structure, were equally devoted to the flames, and, where the dwellings were not destroyed – and they were only spared while the inhabitants resolutely remained in them – they were robbed of all their portable contents, and what the plunderer could not bear away, was ruthlessly hewn to pieces. The inhabitants, black no less than white, were left to starve, compelled to feed only upon the garbage to be found in the abandoned camps of the enemy. The corn scraped up from the spots where the horses fed, has been the only means of life left to thousands but lately in affluence. It was the avowed policy of the enemy to reach our armies through the sufferings of their women and children – to starve out the families of those gallant soldiers whom they had failed to subdue in battle.

An under-reported fact is that when Sherman left Columbia, he commanded 248 wagons filled with Southern treasure.

Simms reports more atrocities committed by the invading monsters:

We have been told of successful outrages of this unmentionable character being practiced upon women [rapes] . . . Many are understood to have taken place in remote country settlements, and two cases are described where young negresses were brutally forced by the wretches and afterwards murdered – one of them being thrust, when half dead, head down, into a mud puddle, and there held until she was suffocated. . . . We need, for the sake of truth and humanity, to put on record, in the fullest types and columns, the horrid deeds of these marauders upon all that is pure and precious – all that is sweet and innocent – all that is good, gentle, gracious, dear and ennobling – within the regards of . . . Christian civilization.

And then there was the killing:

[Mayor Goodwyn] while walking with the Yankee General, heard the report of a gun. Both heard it, and immediately proceeded to the spot. There they found a group of soldiers, with a stalwart young negro fellow lying dead before them on the street, the body yet warm and bleeding. Pushing it with his feet, Sherman said, in his quick, hasty manner, "What does this mean, boys?" The reply was sufficiently cool and careless. "The d__d black rascal gave us his impudence, and we shot him." "Well, bury him at once! Get him out of sight!" As they passed on, one of the party remarked, "Is that the way, General, you treat such a case?" "Oh!" said he, "we have no time for courts-martial and things of that sort!"

Today, our children are taught not to question or to doubt, but to praise and to glorify the great democratic achievements of Sherman in his notorious march through Georgia and South Carolina.

Simms exposes the popular glorification of Sherman, his men, and their march, falsely represented as an army of noble Americans on a democratic adventure, performing a great military feat. In the process of saving this Sacred Union, the romantic myth goes, American soldiers were outraged by haughty Southern aristocracy and by the oppression of black people, whom the invaders heartily embraced, and so on. As a result, the righteous invaders resolved to destroy Southern society once and for all, and thereby bestow on the planet a new birth of freedom.

These absurd pretensions of virtue and self-righteous justifications



for criminal acts are easily contradicted by hundreds of Southern sources, chief among them is Simms's account of Sherman in Columbia. Simms reveals Sherman's invasion as evil, as rationalized by a deformed Christianity, as a fatal violation of the Constitution and core American values, and as carried out by a pretentious army of plundering criminals. As a result of defending the values of the American founders and the rights made explicit in the Declaration of Independence, the South was wrongfully, criminally, and brutally invaded – not by those warring for Christ and Christian morality, not by those building an exceptional civilization in the Western Hemisphere, not by those defending humanity or human rights. The South was invaded, brutalized, and conquered by “monsters of virtuous pretension.” As eyewitnesses like Simms said over and over again, by felons and brutes – who not only broke the rules of warfare by attacking, raping and murdering innocent civilians, but who also broke the rules of decency and Christian morality.

Simms was present throughout this American enormity, when he recorded the horrors of invasion, and Sherman's repeated denials – denials Sherman himself would eventually acknowledge. Simms not only exposes Sherman, but he also rebukes the invaders' virtuous pretensions to defend and to justify their monstrous behavior.

Those who attempted to destroy the South did not succeed (although some are still trying today), because the ideas and ideals of the South are preserved, along with the malignant cruelty of the invaders — preserved in Simms's writings as well as in the writings of many others. All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing. Silence is the greatest shame. We must speak up, no matter how difficult.

If our teachings are false, if historical sources like Simms are wrong, then they will not withstand the onslaught of globalism, secularism, and empire building. But if they are true, then they will sustain us in all manner of dark and threatening times, because we have faith in the final justice of the Good Lord Above and in His ultimate victory. Like our Revolutionary War forefathers, we have faith that freedom will eventually triumph over all forms of tyranny and usurpation. Like our Confederate heroes, we have faith that the courage, sacrifices and patriotism of men like Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and William Gilmore Simms will not only endure but will finally prevail.



the poll is being viewed as a significant shift in American sentiment — but why?

Given the doctrine of “government by the consent of the governed” embraced by the patriots of American Independence — a cause remembered and celebrated every July fourth in this country — *this should be the default position in America*, yet it isn't. In fact, secession has become equated with rebellion, treason and even terrorism!

Something is clearly wrong when the “Americanisms” of the Declaration of Independence of 1776 are more alive in Great Britain than they are in its former colonies.

Of course, this blind spot in America's vision came about with the defeat of the Confederacy and the post-war triumph of American nationalism — the view that the Constitution was not a compact between states, that the South invented the political heresies of nullification and secession for nefarious purposes, and that the “Nation” is now and has always been “one and indivisible.”

How can this view of a “one and indivisible” nation be reconciled with the view that “government by the consent of the governed?” Clearly they cannot. They are incompatible and incommensurable positions. Recent events are beginning to show this in dramatic ways.

Should these trends continue, it will not be long before it will become difficult, if not impossible, to view the War for Southern Independence as anything other than a legitimate act reflecting the will of the Southern people, *in principle* no different than any other independence movement, including the colonial American independence movement of 1776 and the Scottish independence movement of 2014.

Critics of the Southern States' decision to secede from the Union claim that their actions caused the “Civil War.” If there would have been no secession, they argue, there would have been no war. While it is true that secession *preceded* the war, it does not follow that it *caused* the war.

Recent history does not support such a view, in fact, it flatly contradicts it. Dr. Donald Livingston has observed that

after 1990, the number of successful peaceful secessions surged. Fifteen republics seceded from the Soviet Union. A Czech and a Slovak republic were created out of Czechoslovakia through secession. With the exception of the secession of Eritrea from Ethiopia, all the successful secessions since 1990 occurred without violent resistance from the respective central governments.

It seems more reasonable to conclude that it is the *reaction* of the country, confederation or empire from which a people secedes that *determines* what is to follow. Recent events *prove* that war is *not* the necessary outcome.

Just as the British in 1776 chose war rather than allow the colonies to secede peacefully, the United States government chose war rather than let the sovereign states of the South secede peacefully. It could have been otherwise. It could and should have been otherwise.

Britain seems to have learned from history, perhaps America will learn as well.

As events such as what we observed in Scotland unfold around the world — with energetic independence movements in Catalonia and Basque Country in Spain; Veneto, South Tyrol and the island of Sardinia in Italy; and Flanders in Belgium, just to name a few — the words of Confederate President Jefferson Davis seem appropriate as well as prophetic:

The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form.

That time appears to have come.

Deo Vindici!



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The *Palmetto Partisan* is the official publication of the South Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

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Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee
Commander General, United Confederate Veterans Reunion at New Orleans, 1906